

# Federal election – Nimbin vote bucks trend

by Kitty van Vuuren

With the Morrison government now history, the 47th Parliament promises interesting times ahead, with the Albanese Labor Government managing to form a majority government with just a third of the primary vote.

Meanwhile, the Greens expanded their representation in the House of Representatives, with Adam Bandt joined by three new Green MPs from Brisbane electorates.

The Greens, together with the Community Independents (akaTeals) look set to put some serious pressure on the ALP to deliver policies and programs to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and meet the challenges of climate change.

In the Northern Rivers, Justine Elliot managed to retain the seat of Richmond despite a three-way contest with the Nationals and the Greens.

Justine is now an Assistant Minister for Social Services, and also Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence in the Federal Cabinet.

After her swearing in on 1st June, Justine said, "I'm very humbled and privileged to be serving in this new role, and look forward to working with people around the country on these important issues."

The ALP won Richmond

with nearly a third of the primary vote (29%), followed by Mandy Nolan from the Greens (24.75%) and the National's Kimberly Hone (24.15%). After preferences, the ALP won with almost 58% of the vote.

Kevin Hogan comfortably retained the seat of Page with 61.1% of the two-party-preferred vote, up by 1.64% from the previous election, with both Labor and Greens suffering major losses in the primary vote.

So what happened? A closer look at the first preferences (see the chart) shows an impressive result for Independent Hanabeth Luke, who campaigned with some financial support from Climate 200, on a progressive platform for climate action, government integrity, and social spending.

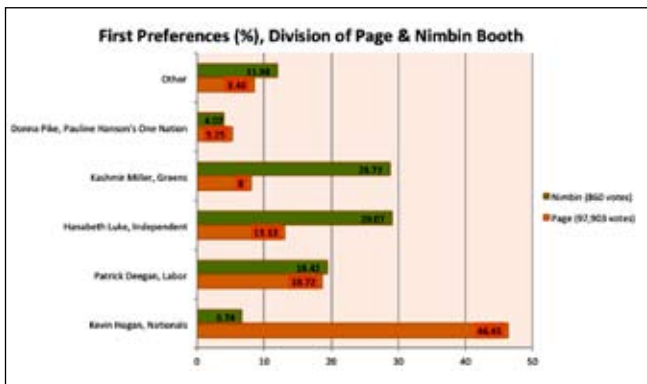
Results from Nimbin Booth suggest that Hanabeth Luke's campaign split both the Green and Labor vote, while Pauline Hanson's One Nation's preferences will have gone to the Nationals (see chart showing the change in votes from the 2019 election).

At Nimbin, the Indigenous-Aboriginal Party of Australia picked up 4.88% of the vote, compared to just 1.55% for Page.

Senate results are still being counted but early results show a large swing towards the Legalise Cannabis Australia Party demonstrating increased



Pre-poll in Lismore  
Photo: Sue Stock

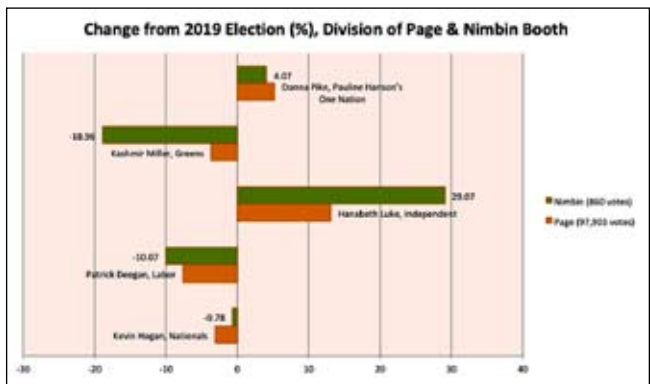


support among voters for drug law reform.

In Queensland, around 6% of voters put Legalise Cannabis Australia as their first preference.

Despite the swing, Legalise

Cannabis number one candidate, Bernie Bradley now seems unlikely to take the final Queensland seat in the Senate, as he appears to be behind, so far, to Pauline Hanson's One Nation.



Bradley, who is a criminal lawyer from Noosa Heads on the Sunshine Coast, said the movement is gaining support around the country and cannabis law reform is "no longer a fringe issue".

New South Wales Senate results are not finalised yet either, but David Shoebridge from the Greens, former NSW MLC, is expected to make the successful move to the Senate.

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